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Governor



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September 18, 2002

TO: Independent Science Panel

FROM: Steve Meyer, Director,
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

SUBJECT: Request for review of the Stormwater Manual for Western Washington

The Independent Science Panel (Panel) was created by the Legislature in 1998 to provide scientific oversight of the state's salmon, steelhead and trout recovery efforts. The purpose of this memo is to request your review of the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) August 2001 Stormwater Manual for Western Washington (manual).

As you know, the state's salmon recovery work is multifaceted and very complex. In your review of the 1999 *Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon* you discussed many of those complexities. That strategy identified urban stormwater runoff as one of the factors contributing to the decline of our aquatic resources including salmon. An action item in the strategy was the improvement and update of the 1992 Puget Sound Stormwater Manual. The document we are asking you to review responds to that action item.

In your review of the 2001 manual, we are especially interested in your comments on two of the minimum control measures, the flow control standard, and the treatment standard, and the thresholds at which these standards should be applied. Please respond to the questions listed below.

1. To what extent was the applicable scientific literature used in development of the manual, with special attention to the development of the flow control standard, and the treatment standard? If you think other information is appropriate to use or has emerged since completion of the manual, please identify it and clarify why you think it should be included.
2. Are the practices outlined in the manual reasonable and consistent with the scientific information used to develop the manual? If not, what changes would you recommend and why?
3. What scientific studies would you recommend to address the most important gaps in knowledge associated with these issues?

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We look forward to receiving your thoughts on this important element of the *Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon*. If you have any questions or needs associated with this request, please contact Mr. Steve Leider of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at (360) 902-2242 or me at (360) 902-2246.

Thank you.

cc: Senator Sid Snyder, Majority Leader of the Senate
Representative Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House
Representative Kelli Linville
Representative Mike Cooper
Tom Fitzsimmons, Director, Department of Ecology
Jeff Koenings, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Martha Choe, Director, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
Valoria Loveland, Director, Department of Agriculture
Doug MacDonald, Secretary, Department of Transportation
Scott Redman, Acting Chair, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team